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BEFORE THE POSTAL RATE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, DC 20268

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Eric S. Kaminsky 8915 State Route 274 PO Box 123 Kettlersville, OH 45336

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Office of the Secretary Postal Regulatory Commission 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20268

This letter adds to my appeal of the U.S. Postal Service decision to close the office located in Kettlersville, Ohio.

As I stated in my original appeal, I do not believe the Postal Service has demonstrated the <u>ACTUAL</u> savings this office will generate. The figure for the postmaster salary stated in the proposal to close is based on a national average, not the actual wages paid at this office.

In addition, the postmaster position has vacated through retirement in 2009, and was not filled at that level since then. Therefore, I do not believe the Postal Service can justify using those figures as savings. I believe they need to show the actual wages that have been paid. If they did, I believe the figure for wages and benefits will be MUCH lower.

Second, the facility now in use was constructed brand new to replace an entirely outdated space that was not up to code. Now, with the proposed abandonment of this facility, the Postal Service would have to construct cluster boxes at several locations around the village to service residents, an added expense that I do not seem as necessary. Why replace something that is already working with something that will incur additional expense, take more time to service, and I feel will result in a less secure mail stream? The proposed delivery by rural carrier would require several stops, since mailboxes cannot be placed at the street due to sidewalks and curbs. There would be no time savings there. There is also the issue of security.

The Postal Service has dismissed this in their proposed notice of closing. We now have a safe, secure point for the mail to be delivered to. Having cluster boxes (or their equivalent) would be, in my opinion, a step backwards in that regard. These could be easily vandalized, which certainly cannot happen now. Mail is secure in the building from the time it is delivered to Kettlersville to be placed in post office boxes until the time it is picked up. The boxes now are also inside, where mail would not be affected by the weather. Outside cluster boxes would not be able to offer that.

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Third, the Post Office serves as a vital community resource, one which allows the village an easily recognizable identity. Although I have been informed by postal officials that the village would retain its name and ZIP Code (Kettlersville, 45336), I see this could being eliminated sometime in the future. I believe having a functioning Post Office in the village would prevent this. With some improvements in village infrastructure now in the works, I see increased opportunities for growth, and thus increased business opportunities for the Post Office. I do not believe these could be adequately served by rural carrier.

In conclusion, I urge the Postal Regulatory Commission to **REJECT** this proposed notice to close the post office in Kettlersville, Ohio. I feel that the Postal Service has not adequately justified the economic savings, as well as the impact on the community, necessary to close this facility.

Eric S. Kaminsky